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## WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

### SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Items of interest in this week's reports include: Development of a wartime "Bible" in one State; cooperative purchase of a tractor; a State-wide testing service for pressure-cooker gages; and a near-record attendance at a 4-H summer school emphasizing war production needs.

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#### KENTUCKY

July 15, 1943

Farm labor.-Thirty-six farm/assistants appointed to work with farm and home agents in counties where programs are particularly heavy. First job in program was to find several hundred workers to pick strawberries. Workers were recruited for many of central and western counties. Labor assistants helped to get most work possible from custom machinery by obtaining workers for operators, arranging exchange of labor and custom work, persuading operators to do custom work, and arranging schedules to avoid overlapping of work and travel.

In Bourbon County, agricultural agent and labor assistant met with 38 combine and thresher operators to work out ways of saving barley and wheat crops. In Boone County, they located 10 custom shearers to shear 6,000 sheep for 200 farmers. Carroll County farmers put in full wartime crop quotas with aid of custom tractor work. In some communities, businessmen's labor groups signed up to work evenings and Saturday afternoons.

Home canning.-Information on how to can Victory Garden and fruit crop made available to every rural family in State through specially prepared leaflet, "Can Fruits and Vegetables for Victory." Community and neighborhood demonstrations on canning and dehydration given by home agents and State home economics extension staff in all counties. First assignment of 20 pressure cookers to State was used by home economists for demonstration purposes.

Homemakers in war effort.-Typical of Kentucky women's efforts in war program is Christian County. There, in 3 months, homemakers canned 4,233 quarts of meat, made 756 articles of clothing, rolled 9,000 bandages, and made 1,502 garments for Red Cross. In 1 month they sold approximately \$600 worth of home-produced food. Nutrition center where canning bulletins and other recent information are available has been set up in city library at Hopkinsville. Project recently undertaken is establishment of preschool clinics in each community.

Meeting wartime situations in home and community will be theme of homemakers' club studies this fall in cooperation with extension. Special attention will be given to new fabrics and their care; substitutes and make-over problems; conservation of home furnishings; better use of time, energy, and money; and better use of equipment. Better health is promised through study of nutrition and continued production and conservation of food.

4-H Club lamb show.—Kentucky lambs won 10 of highest 15 awards at tri-State lamb show at Evansville, Ind. Fielding Williams of Henderson County won grand championship on lamb that sold for 95 cents a pound. Top lambs sold for \$23 to \$25 a hundred; choice lambs, \$17.25; good lambs, \$16.75; and common lambs, \$14.

Cooperative tractor.—With profits from crushing and distributing limestone, Livingston Soil Improvement Association purchased tractor and combine harvester. Machine will be used to harvest soybeans, small grains, grass, and clover seeds. Last year nearly 500 acres of soybeans went unharvested because of lack of equipment.

Production reports.—Indicative of Kentucky's efforts in war production are items from county agent reports: Six cream stations in Jackson County report increase of 40 percent in cream purchased. County's estimated egg production increase is 40 to 60 percent. In Muhlenberg County, 48 farmers are growing 1 to 10 acres each of sweetpotatoes for dehydration. More than 600 acres potatoes and about 350 acres sweetpotatoes are being grown in Leslie County. In Lawrence County, 161 farmers signed up to grow 460 acres of hemp for seed; last year 24 farmers planted 47 acres. In Oldham County, where 428 4-H Club girls enlisted in food-for-victory campaign, 419 of them enrolled for canning. Sixty 4-H Club members in Jefferson county are producing 23 acres of castor-beans.

MICHIGAN  
July 15, 1943

Wartime "Bible."—All major phases of Michigan agriculture at war are included in new "Bible" of State extension service. Such problems as war harvest short cuts, emergency crops, and payment of debts are being outlined by specialists and college agricultural department heads meeting with county agents in eight cities. War production outline resulting from this discussion of war problems and their solutions will be carried to farmers and homemakers in each of State's 83 counties.

Testing cooker gages.—As wartime service to housewives, college agricultural engineering department offers to test pressure-cooker gages so that home food processing will be safer, lead to less spoilage, and produce better-quality food reserve. Cooker gages have dials reading in pounds of steam pressure. Through corrosion or misuse, needles sometimes read too high or too low. Pressures too low confuse cook and often lead to food spoilage or food poisoning. Pressures too high, caused by gages reading too low, result in overcooking, destroying quality of product. Gages to be tested are removed carefully from cooker cover. If threads are too tightly corroded, owners are warned not to damage either gage or cover, but to send in entire cover with gage attached for testing.

Farm safety. - Michigan farmers, forced by late spring to speed up planting and other farm operations, are being cautioned not to take chances or become careless in handling machinery. Hard-working farmers should not try to carry on if fatigued, because that is when accidents happen. Surveys indicate 85 percent of farm machinery accidents result from faulty human behavior. Every farmer crippled or killed represents loss to Nation's production as well as to his own family.

Food preservation. - Every county in State this summer has access to two sources of service to housewives seeking definite ways of preserving foods. Home economics extension staff has scheduled in each county one or more demonstrations on canning, with discussions on drying, brining, and kraut making. Also, a trained team of 4-H girls will put on food demonstration programs for community groups in each county.

Livestock feeds. - To answer questions of livestock farmers, analysis is being made to determine how serious is threatened feed shortage in State and whether livestock numbers will have to be reduced. On July 1, available feed left over from record 1942 crops on average farm in State was twice about normally left per head of livestock. According to rate feeds were fed in first 6 months of 1943, cow, sow, and hen have eaten better since last fall than ever before in State. Any cutting down of rations will be result of reduced feed-crop harvests or increased numbers of livestock.

OREGON

July 1, 1943

Farm labor. - Organizing farm labor program has been biggest job of every county agent for past 3 months. Working through county farm labor committees, agents provide leadership for mobilizing nonfarm youth to assist with seasonal and year-round farm operations. Work carried through schools and organized youth groups. Special instructional material on farming and farm-labor needs prepared and presented in many high schools. Cooperation of youth and adult groups obtained to direct nonfarm boys and girls to farm jobs. June reports indicate youth platoons of 10 to 40 children were very effective in Willamette Valley in fruit harvest and truck-crop weeding and thinning.

County agents have assumed major responsibility for organizing and recruiting nonfarm women for seasonal agricultural jobs. Work carried on with active cooperation of churches, social groups, fraternal organizations, service clubs, and USES. Mobilization and recruitment of nonfarm men to assist with seasonal labor peaks conducted with help of chambers of commerce and service organizations.

Agents are conducting educational program with employers of farm labor to obtain early estimate of probable labor needs in addition to local supplies and to enable employers to make maximum use of inexperienced help.

In recent months, county agents have been particularly active in disseminating information on labor-saving equipment and methods. Examples: Urging more use of power buck rakes, and providing plans and specifications for construction of

buck rakes on tractors and automobile and truck chassis; promoting greater use of livestock self-feeders; emphasizing complete reconditioning and repair of harvesting machinery before it is time for its use; increasing attention to improved pastures and perennial hay crops; planning to stagger or lengthen crop harvest seasons; and aiding farmers to develop over-all farm-management plans that will utilize family labor throughout entire year with special emphasis on avoidance of extreme labor peaks. Agents have organized community and neighborhood pools of labor-saving equipment and are planning for orderly exchange of labor. This is proving particularly effective method of meeting labor needs for haying.

Agents, cooperating with county USDA War Boards, have provided Selective Service Boards with information needed for reclassifying essential workers in agriculture.

Home economics activities. -Recent home-management activity included 483 method demonstrations and discussion meetings by agents, specialists, and project leaders in adult work, attended by 13,906 persons. Farm women continued to show keen interest in subject-matter aids on home problems, in spite of increased pressure on them for participation in regular farm work. Projects being emphasized include clothing care and repair, conservation and repair of household equipment and furnishing, 1943 food supply under point rationing, food preservation, and preparation of wartime meals.

4-H summer school. -Though extension agents, parents, and club members were advised that children needed at home should not go to 4-H summer school, near record of 1,847 boys and girls attended 2-week session. Additional 200 would have attended had there been housing facilities. Subjects given emphasized wartime production and conservation needs and methods of overcoming production obstacles.

War production goals. -Extension staff cooperating with Agricultural Policies Committee in preparation of farm production capacity report as background for 1944 war production goals. Mimeograph was prepared showing estimates of crop acreages and livestock numbers for years 1939-42 for Oregon. Work done on 1943 county acreage estimates and livestock numbers will be of particular value when completed.